

IOWA BIRD LIFE



Published Quarterly By The
Iowa Ornithologists' Union

JUNE, 1961

VOL. XXXI

NO. 2

YELLOW—CROWNED NIGHT HERON IN IOWA

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DES MOINES, IOWA

A summary of the published records of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*, in Iowa appeared in *Iowa Bird Life*, 1956, XXVI: 57-59. A number of these could have referred to nesting birds, but proof of nesting in Iowa was lacking until two nests were found in Des Moines in the spring of 1956.

Since the publication referred to there have been a number of other observations of this species, and in addition to the repeated nestings in the same location in Des Moines, nests were found in 1960 in two other widely separated parts of the State. These were in the Sny Magill bottoms near Clayton, and in Springbrook State Park in Guthrie County. Victor M. Hall, Refuge Manager at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, found two nests in adjacent trees in the Clayton County location, and Duane E. DeKock, Public Relations Officer for the Conservation Commission, saw two active nests at Springbrook.

There were two nests with young in Crocker Woods in Des Moines in each of the years 1957, 1959, and 1960, and two adults were flushed from a nest in the same place May 2, 1961. Although no nest was found in 1958 it is possible nesting took place this year also. The nests in this area are about 50 feet high and are difficult to see after the trees have leafed out. The location is the flood plain of the Des Moines River and in a wet spring mud and mosquitoes are deterrents to even the most earnest birder.

The other reported observations are shown grouped by months in which they were made.

April. Fred W. Kent of Iowa City saw a mature bird 15 miles south of Iowa City on April 25, 1958.

Joe Kennedy of Des Moines found an adult and an immature at Lake Ahquabi late in the month in 1959.

Victor M. Hall observed one on April 21, 1960 at Harper's Bottoms in the Upper Mississippi River Refuge.

May. The Iowa City area furnished these records: one adult near the Iowa River Dupont bridge 12 miles north of Iowa City, May 25, 1959; four adults in the shallows of the Coralville Reservoir near Coufals, May 2, 1960, and two birds five miles south of Iowa City on May 1, 1960, all seen by Kent. Thomas Morrissey saw five the day after the Coralville observation. Dr. and Mrs. Peter Laude observed two flying near Swan Lake on May 23, 1960. Russell Hays of Waterloo furnished several records for 1960: eight were seen along Black Hawk Creek on May 6, one on May 13, one near Shirey's Sandpit on the 13th, and one at Sans Souci Park the following day. These last two may have been from the group of eight seen earlier.

On May 13, 1960, Le Roy W. Sowl, Refuge Manager at Lansing, sighted one two and one-half miles southeast of New Albin.

June. Kent and Dr. Laude saw an immature near Swan Lake on June 6, 1960. Hays sighted three along Black Hawk Creek on June 20.

July. On July 15, Hays saw two in the Black Hawk Creek area.

August. Harold H. Burgess, Manager of the Union Slough Refuge, reports immatures are observed there in August each year.

Miss Lillian Serbousek of Cedar Rapids saw one at McIntosh State Park near Clear Lake on August 6, 1960.

Another was seen near Coralville in 1960 by Dr. Robert Norton of Des Moines and Joe Kennedy.

October. Two adults were seen October 4, 1953 at Lake Odessa, Louisa Co. by Peter Petersen Jr.

Miss Serbousek on October 9, 1960, saw one immature north of the Dupont Bridge, and Kent made a similar observation five days later.

Dave Bucklin of Scranton saw "a few" Yellow-crowns along with others of the heron family at Goose Lake in Green County during the spring and most of the summer of 1960, but immatures in the fall could not be positively identified as this species.

Donald Gillaspey of Lamoni has observed Yellow-crowns "about every spring" in his area.

Fred Leshner of West Branch saw a mature bird across from Clinton at Lock and Dam No. 13 on August 21, 1960, but was unable to locate a nest.

Nesting records have also been obtained nearby in the neighboring states to the east and north. Peter Petersen, Jr. reports Yellow-crowns nested in both the Rock Island and New Boston, Illinois, heronries on the banks of the Mississippi River in 1960; Hall found a nest in the Ambro, Wisconsin, Refuge area, and Donald V. Gray, Refuge Manager, Winona, Minnesota, reports five nests in the Shore Acres area near La Crescent, and one in the Reno Bottoms just south of Reno, Minnesota. Both of these Minnesota locations are in Houston County, and are about 24 miles and seven miles, respectively north of the Iowa line. Gray adds that there are no refuge records of the Yellow-crowns prior to 1960, but in that year they were seen in all of the principal bottomland areas of Pool 10 of the Mississippi River, and were sighted from the northern end of the Upper Mississippi Refuge opposite Wabasha, Minnesota, southward to Clinton, Iowa, where they were observed in the Beaver Island area.

The A.O.U. Check-list, 5th ed. gives the nesting range of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron as "locally from Oklahoma, southeastern Kansas, Missouri, and western and central Tennessee, rarely from Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, and the Atlantic seaboard, from Massachusetts south." Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa should now be added to the list. Although nests have been found in Iowa in only three locations, the repeated observations in the spring and summer months in the Iowa City and Waterloo areas at least strongly suggest that other nestings may very well have taken place without the nests having been found.

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS

COMPILED BY HENRY BIRKELAND*

ROLAND, IOWA

(Part 1 was published in Iowa Bird Life, Vol. XXI, June 1951)

This list contains the names of: (1) those who were born in Iowa and became ornithologists either in Iowa or outside of the state at a later date; (2) those who were born outside Iowa but made ornithological studies of note within the state; and (3) members of Iowa Ornithologists' Union who died in the period 1951-1960.

Under each name is given as much of the following information as it has been possible to obtain: Date and place of birth and death; age at nearest birthday; publication where a biographical sketch or notice of death is to be found.

BAILEY, MRS. MARY L.

Born, Sioux City, Iowa, July 29, 1861.

Died, Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 14, 1955 (94).

Iowa Bird Life, 1931: 8; 1956: 26-27 (portrait)

BALL, CARLETON ROY.

Born, Little Rock, Iowa, June 12, 1873.

Died, Washington, D.C., Feb. 2, 1958 (84).

Des Moines Register, Feb. 4, 1958.

BARRETT, WALTER W.

Born, Camanche, Iowa, April 1, 1892.

Died, Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 26, 1958 (66).

Iowa Bird Life, 1958: 86-87.

BATTELL, MRS. FREDERICK L. (HARRIET CHAPMAN)

Born, Plattsmouth, Neb., Dec. 11, 1870.

Died, Paoli, Penn., Oct. 24, 1951 (81-).

Iowa Bird Life, 1951: 70-71, (portrait).

Auk, 1952: 492.

BELL, WILLIAM BONAR.

Born, Milton, Iowa, June 2, 1877.

Died, Washington, D.C., Mar. 30, 1949 (72-).

Auk, 1951: 550.

BERRY GEORGE H.

Born, Canada, or Maine (?), Sept. 22, 1861.

Died, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Oct. 1928 (67).

Iowa Bird Life, 1959: 74-78, (portrait).

BROOKS, FRANK GARY.

Born, Berlin, Penn., Apr. 8, 1893.

Died, Mount Vernon, Iowa, Mar. 4, 1955 (62-).

Des Moines Register, Mar. 5, 1955: 8.

Bios, Vol. 26, 1955: 123-138 (6 portraits).

Proc. Ia. Acad. Sci., Vol. 62, 1955: 66-67 (portrait).

CARTER, CHARLES MORELAND.

Born, Cambridge, Mass., Sept. 22, 1852.

Died, St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 1, 1922 (70-).

Auk, 1923: 183-184.

CHADBOURNE, T. L.

Born, Vinton, Iowa, Jan. 30, 1870.

Died, Vinton, Iowa, Oct. 17, 1951 (82-)

Iowa Bird Life, 1951: 71.

CLARK, MRS. ELLA LAMSON.

Born, Fairfield, Iowa, Aug. 26, 1862.

Died, Burlington, Iowa, Sept. 27, 1950 (88-)

Iowa Bird Life, 1951: 55.

DALES, MRS. MARIE.

Born, Boone, Iowa, Dec. 29, 1871.

Died, Sioux City, Iowa, Apr. 5, 1959 (87).

Iowa Bird Life, 1959: 106.

HORNBACK, ARDELLA EMERY. (MRS. ALVAN A. HORNBACK).

Born, Mahaska Co., Iowa, Feb. 13, 1882.

Died, Joliet, Ill., Aug. 18, 1950 (68).

Auk, 1951: 408.

*I hereby make grateful acknowledgment to R. M. Anderson; J. Harold Ennis; Fred J. Pierce; and others who have helped in the preparation of this index.

IRONS, ERNEST EDWARD.

Born, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Feb. 17, 1877.

Died, Chicago, Ill., Jan. 18, 1959 (81-).

Whos Who in America, Vol. 28: 1237.

Des Moines Register, Jan. 19, 1959: 11.

Iowa Bird Life, 1959: 28.

KEYES, CHARLES REUBEN.

Born, Mount Vernon, Iowa, May 5, 1871.

Died, Mount Vernon, Iowa, July 24, 1951 (80).

Iowa Bird Life, 1952: 2-4 (portrait and bibliography)

Palimpsest, 1951: 281-84.

KING MRS. J. RAY. (nee: HELEN GOULD)

Born, Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 23, 1884.

Died, Grundy Center, Iowa, Oct. 10, 1959 (74).

Iowa Bird Life, 1959: 107.

LEE, MISS ZELL CHARLOTTA.

Born, Danbury, Iowa, Nov. 22, 1899.

Died, Sioux City, Iowa, June 23, 1953 (53).

Iowa Bird Life, 1953: 52 (portrait).

Auk, 1954: 349.

PEET, MAX MINOR.

Born, Iosco, Mich., Oct. 20, 1885.

Died, Ann Arbor, Mich., Mar. 25, 1949 (63).

Auk, 1951: 135-36.

ROBERTS, FRANCIS LE ROY.

Born, Jackson, Minn., July 19, 1893.

Died, Corona, Calif., May 20, 1957 (64-).

Iowa Bird Life, 1957: 38-40, (portrait).

SAGE, JAMES R.

Born, Cardington, Ohio, June 15, 1889.

Died, Ames, Iowa, Nov. 13, 1951 (62).

Iowa Bird Life, 1952: 14.

SAVAGE, DAVID L.

Born, Salem, Iowa, June 30, 1877.

Died, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Mar. 5, 1955 (80-).

Iowa Bird Life, 1947: 4-7 (portrait); 1957: 41.

STEWART, CHARLES A.

Born, Philadelphia, Penn., May 18, 1882.

Died, New Albin, Iowa, May 14, 1954 (72-).

Iowa Bird Life, 1954: 53.

STILES, BRUCE FLEMING.

Born, Decorah, Iowa, June 23, 1897.

Died, Des Moines, Iowa, July 17, 1959 (62).

Iowa Bird Life, 1955: 37 (portrait only); 1959: 96-98 (portrait).

Iowa Conservationist, 1960: 38 (portrait).

WENDELBURG, MRS. TONI RAVENS.

Born, Ottawa, Illionis, April 7, 1868.

Died, Des Moines, Iowa, May 13, 1958 (90).

Des Moines Register, Feb. 6, 1955; May 14, 1958 (portraits).

Iowa Bird Life, 1958: 48 (portrait).

LEAVE—TAKING OF THE SILVER TERNLET

WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH

3119 East Second Street

SIOUX CITY, IOWA

The gentle, delicate Least Tern has long been one of my favorite birds. These terns usually arrive in the upper Missouri River valley after mid-May. From that time until they depart in the late summer, they are in evidence along the Missouri River and its various tributaries, and also on the small oxbow lakes adjacent to the Missouri River. Their musical "pidink" calls are heard as they flit like white swallows over the surface of the river. In fact, many of the early writers called these dainty sprites "sea swallows" because of their graceful, flitting flight over the beaches of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This writer has long thought that the name Silver Ternlet, as often used by Dr. Elliott Coues, is a much more descriptive name for this, the tiniest of all terns.

Today the main nesting ground of the interior Least Tern is along the Missouri River to mid-South Dakota and out along the tributary rivers through Kansas and Nebraska. The Missouri River is thoroughly harnessed today, and this means controlled water flow, which in turn means elimination of the mid-summer low, sandy islands, where the terns nested. Terns therefore must now nest on high sand banks, occasional sand dune areas adjacent to the river, and probably will find new nesting sites along the hundreds of man-made dikes. These dikes now extend out into the channel for the purpose of narrowing and stabilizing the Missouri River for navigation. The new nesting sites are not as safe as the sandbars of former years and it will be interesting to watch the population level of the Least Tern in the years to come.



LEAST TERNS

Cut a gift of the author. Photo by R. S. Wycoff, Lexington, Nebraska

From their first yipping cries on some fine May morning until their departure, the Least Tern is a pleasing sight to the bird-watcher on the banks of the wide Missouri. The flocks in the spring apparently break up as they move slowly up the Missouri River. The Republican River terns take off up their favorite stream, the Platte River terns do likewise, and finally a few birds reach Sioux City in a further break-up. Some of these terns stop near the mouth of the Vermillion River, others go up the Niobrara or Quicourt River, as the French trappers called it, and the remaining tiny band proceed up the Missouri River to various points in South Dakota and even as far as Montana.

During the period of nidification our Least Terns feed on the Missouri River, up the Big Sioux River, and on the nearby small lakes. If the parents are successful in rearing their young (some years they are not; see Wycoff, R.S., 1960), they often lead them to some nearby lake to learn the rudiments of fishing. These young terns are very awkward on the wing and their numerous clumsy dives are interesting to watch. After the old birds have brought all the fledglings from the river, the latter find resting on the water less tiring than fishing and just sit there. The parents now fly to the young, alight on the water, and proceed to feed them small fish. These observations were made on August 7, 1929. The urge to migrate must now be strong with the adult Least Terns. When they leave?, how they leave?, and many other questions had remained unanswered for nearly 35 years. In the fall of 1960 I had an answer.

My departure dates for the Least Tern from Sioux City reveal that in most years the terns are suddenly gone the third or fourth week in August, and none are seen until the following spring. On rare years I have those precious September records. For instance, in 1932 the terns were seen on September 5 and 8. It was not until 1954 that I again had a September record (on the first). A third late record was September 8, 1959.

Questions kept bothering me: what time of the day did they leave? in what numbers? and many others. On the morning of September 7, 1960, shortly after seven o'clock, I was to get most of my answers. I often drive along the Missouri River at this hour in the morning to look for birds. I had hardly gotten onto the interstate highway before I saw a small flock of Least Terns in flight. There were about 30 terns and they were flying with all their strength into a strong south wind. They flew along silently and nearly on the water. They flew in a rather close flock and were not making more than a few miles an hour as I shall show. The minimum speed on the interstate highway is 40 miles per hour, so I had to speed up. In doing so I soon caught up with another flock of Least Terns, and shortly thereafter a third flock. It now became clear to me that, because of the slow speed of the terns, I might legally get far enough ahead of them to come back and observe them again. By holding to the top legal speed I zipped down to the industrial interchange and back to my starting point. I turned around to retrace my route and soon caught up with the valiant little ternlets. I determined that my first survey was right and there were only three flocks. Each contained between 30 and 40 terns. The majority were adults, which would indicate the nesting season had not been too successful. One question still bothers me and probably will ever be unanswered: while the individual flocks remained closely knit, why did the flocks migrate with several hundred yards separating each from the other. Is it possible that each flock represented a nesting colony, and the colony instinct prevailed after nesting even into the fall leave-taking?

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- Wycoff, R.S. (1960) The Least Tern. **Nebraska Bird Review**, 28:39-42.
- Youngworth, Wm. (1930) Breeding of the Least Tern in Iowa. **Wilson Bulletin**, Vol. XLII, PP. 102-103.



COMING IN FOR A LANDING

Photo by R. S. Wycoff. Halftone a gift of Wm. Youngworth.

MOCKINGBIRDS IN IOWA

WOODWARD H. BROWN

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The Mockingbird is usually thought of as a southern species, and one that doesn't belong in Iowa. When it is seen here the observer (including the writer) is prone to rush into print with his find.

Iowa Bird Life has printed thirty references to Mockingbird observations in the last ten years. Among these are four records in connection with our Spring Meeting field trips at Sioux City in 1955, Vinton in 1958, Keokuk in 1959, and Waterloo in 1960. Six of the dates are those of Christmas Censuses at Coggon in 1951, Fairfield in 1956 and 1958, Davenport in 1958, and Des Moines and Lamoni in 1959. The rest of the observations are fairly evenly divided between fall and winter dates (October through March), and spring

and summer dates in May, June and July. They are also distributed geographically about in proportion to our membership, and better representation would doubtless have produced additional reports. Nests were found during the summer of 1959 and 1960 in Scott Co. by Peter Petersen Jr.

There are in addition two fall and winter and a spring date in Des Moines which are unpublished. Then too, in 1959 Bill Harrison of Grinnell found five active nests at Rock Creek Lake, and in 1960 Dr. Norton of Des Moines found several Mockingbirds in the same area during the nesting season.

The geographical distribution and the seasons of the published records are shown below together with the Distributional Check-list classifications for comparison.

Iowa Bird Life 1950-1960.

Section	N.W.	N.C.	N.E.
Classification	Casual	Casual	Casual summer res.
No. of reports	Summer, 4; Winter, 2	Summer, 1; Winter, 2	Summer, 1.
Section	W.C.	Central	E.C.
Classification	Casual summer res.	casual Summer, 1,	Summer res. Summer, 5;
No. of reports	None	Winter, 3	Winter, 8
Section	S.W.	S.C.	S.E.
Classification	Casual	Summer res.	Summer res.
No. of reports	Winter, 1.	Summer, 1; Winter, 1.	Summer, 4; Winter, 2.

WEATHER AND A HAWK FLIGHT IN IOWA

BETH PROESCHOLDT

LISCOMB, IOWA

With the need for more studies of the seeming influence of weather upon migration, I will attempt to interpret some observations for the period of March 31 to April 4, 1960, as a possible slight contribution to our knowledge in this field.

To Henry Hurst of the Des Moines Station of the U.S. Weather Bureau I am indebted for weather information to supplement my records.

As our memorable winter of 1959-1960 passed with its 75 days of continuous snow cover and the coldest March ever recorded, springtime arrived suddenly and belatedly in Iowa on March 26 and 27 with warm, southerly winds. The temperature high of 45 degrees for March 26 was the warmest day since January 12, although still about ten degrees below normal. This weather was favorable to the first migration of spring, with practically no migration prior to March 26.

By March 31, with the Iowa River in flood, my birding was thwarted, with favorite areas under water and many roads impassable. However, our backyard assumed sudden importance with our son's shouted announcement that hawks were flying. In the following two hours, from 2:30 to 4:40 P.M., far from the best time for observing hawks, I counted passing over our house 60 hawks, largely Red-tailed with several accipiters, 1 Bald Eagle, an adult, 1 Great Blue Heron, and 1110 blackbirds largely Redwinged.

With a high pressure area to the north and east of us, centered near Hudson Bay, and a deep low pressure system centered in southwestern Kansas, winds in central Iowa were from E, SE at 9-14 M.P.H., that day, maximum temperatures of 53 degrees were reached with barometric reading of 29.81 inches and a 90% overcast sky.

On the following day, April 1, in the short period from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. 31 hawks were observed, along with 193+ blackbirds. With the storm system, now centered in east Kansas, moving northward, our barometer was falling, the skies were heavily overcast, with an E wind of 15-20 and gusts up to 30 M.P.H., and a temperature high of 55 degrees. A spatter of rain in the morning was followed by more rain by 4:00 P.M.

Two Red-tailed Hawks, flying low from SE to NW, were flapping much more than common, possibly to maintain their balance in the strong wind. As low-flying clouds moved from E to W and an occasional break in the clouds revealed hawks, I wondered how many more were hidden from my view above the clouds.

On April 2 the low pressure system centered in west-central Iowa giving our area S, SE winds of 9-14 M.P.H., heavily overcast skies, a temperature high of only 41 degrees, with rain sprinkles and snow skiffs all day, weather seemingly unfavorable to migration, and I observed none. There were slight indications of a reverse movement, however, with 8 Great Blue Herons, 30 Robins, 10 Common Grackles and 50 blackbirds of mixed species flying from NW to SE during the day.

On April 3 temperatures were again warmer with a high of 50 degrees, winds were from the W at 15-20 M.P.H., skies were 100% overcast to clearing somewhat by 5:00 P.M., and the barometer was rising as a frontal system approached from the Dakotas, the "low" centered north of Lake Superior. Of the 41 hawks observed in the hour from 3:30 to 4:30 P.M., 16 were drifting surprisingly from NW to SE. Unfortunately, not all observed birds on this day were tabulated as to direction of flight.

With the high pressure system moving in from the northwest on April 4, Iowa was on the eastern edge of this area with accompanying NW winds of 9-14 M.P.H.—weather generally considered to be unfavorable to migration, and only 4 hawks were seen flying, although this, too, was in a relatively short period of time.

While it is generally agreed that spring migration is favored by warm, southerly winds, it is usually difficult to determine whether it is the temperature or the winds which are the most important factor as they are so often combined in the same general weather pattern. However, from these few observations of hawks, and of blackbirds, it would seem in this case that temperature, not wind direction, was the significant influence. This could have resulted, in part, from a possible "damming up" of the migrants due to the unseasonably cold weather prior to this warming period.

The main weather influence of this period was a deep low pressure system that moved out of Kansas through Iowa and into the Hudson Bay region, weather not generally considered especially favorable to migration. At no time during this period were we in the warm sector of the low pressure system, i.e., the interval between a warm and cold front, which would have favored migration. On each day of this time the sky was either completely overcast, or nearly so.

From the accompanying chart it is evident that while the wind direction of each day was from a different quarter, there was considerable variation in the direction of the flights observed on a given day. There seems to have been some influence exerted by the wind, for when the wind veered from easterly on March 31 and April 1, to westerly on April 3, the direction of flight of a large proportion of hawks changed. However, a great many more observations of diurnal migration are needed before any conclusions can safely be drawn.

Direction of Flights of Hawks							
	SE-NW	S,SE-N,NW	S-N	E,SE-W,NW	E-W	NW-SE	E,NE-W,SW
March 31.....	30	6	8	3	1	...	...
(wind E,SE)							
April 1.....	19	4	....	3	....	....	1
(wind E)							
April 3.....	3	3	10	1	....	16	...
(wind W)							
Direction of Flight—of Blackbirds							
March 31.....	830	50	195	35	....	....	...
April 1.....	68	43	....	62	20	....	....
April 3.....	....	...	60	....	....	....	....

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-NINTH CONVENTION

BY MYRLE M. BURK

Secy.-Treas., Iowa Ornithologists Union

The Ottumwa Bird Club welcomed the members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union at an informal reception in the Ballroom of the Hotel Ottumwa, Friday evening. Roy Schultz, Castalia, a farmer by vocation and a guide and amateur photographer by avocation showed a film of Alaskan scenery and animals made during summers spent in that state. The cow Moose and her young, feeding on the submerged vegetation of the lake bed, the large salmon and trout, swimming upstream to spawn or sometimes to be caught by the waiting fishermen, the Kodiak Bear, the Black Bear or man, the hordes of Caribou and the graceful Dall Sheep appeared in their various habitats of marsh, clear cold running streams or the cliffs of the magnificent mountains. After the program, members remained for an hour of visiting; refreshments of coffee and punch with many varieties of delicious and tempting cookies served by members of the Ottumwa Bird Club. Charles C. Ayres, Jr., described the various field trips to be conducted Saturday and Sunday mornings after 4:30 A.M. breakfasts at the Pink Pig, Hotel Ottumwa.

The fine breakfast of excellent coffee, toast, jelly, scrambled eggs and bacon set the spirit of the early morning hike. During the three hour trip shore birds, warblers, sparrows, and many of the nesting species were seen.

At 9:00 A.M., the bird watchers, damp and muddy but enthusiastic, returned to the Hotel Ottumwa where hot coffee and doughnuts were served by the members of the Ottumwa Bird Club to set us in tune for the program which followed. Oscar W. Stolz, Mayor, fittingly welcomed the I.O.U. Convention to Ottumwa. Peter C. Petersen, Jr., President, responded.

The first of the six papers of the formal program of the Convention was given by Elton Fawks, East Moline, Illinois, the "Results of the 1960-61 Survey of the Bald Eagle Wintering in Mississippi Valley." The national project is partially financed by the Bald Eagle Club; anyone interested may become a member by paying \$1.00 and thus aiding the study. To date the observations may show a decrease in the number of immature eagles in the Tri-City area and an increase in the southern area where more ducks and geese winter. Dr. Peter P. Laude, Iowa City, in the paper "The Anatomy of the Vocal Chords and Classification of Bird Calls and Songs," comparatively described the throat structures of birds by means of slides, and the morphology of the lungs of birds with those of man. Birds sounds are of two kinds; nonvocal and vocal. Dale Hein, Iowa State University, presenting "Local Movements of Wood Ducks" described the mass migration of the Mississippi flyway and the roosting sites to which Wood Ducks return night after night in spite of disturbances.

Harold H. Burgess, Manager of Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge in "Union Slough Waterfowl Production Studies" reported that Union Slough is not only a resting area during migration but census shows that it also is becoming a production area. Dr. Arnold Haugen, Iowa State University, presenting the paper "Wildlife Research Program of Iowa State University" described ecological problems under study to answer such questions such as, is the Wild Turkey of Texas adaptable to the environment of the Yellow River Forest, where 45% of the 10,000 acres is forested? or, why the Ring-necked Pheasant does not increase and produce in the environment of southern Iowa. Myra Willis, Cedar Rapids showed pictures taken while on a "Visit to Paradise" (Hawaii).

The slide fest, which was presented the second time this year, was marked by increased interest by both the camera fans and the spectators; the pictures were of good quality.

At 6:30 P.M., a very fine dinner was served in the ballroom of the Hotel Ottumwa. The beautifully decorated tables, the favors for the guests, and door prizes added to the festivity. Mr. and Mrs. John Osness, Waterloo were the lucky winners, a lawn chair and a TV lamp.

As a tribute to his highly valued contributions to the society as editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, the members of the I.O.U. presented Fred J. Pierce with the book *Hummingbirds* by Crawford H. Greenwalt. Appreciation of his service to I.O.U. were recounted by the past presidents present, Walter W. Bennett, Dr. Martin L. Grant, Myrle L. Jones, Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Dr. Peter P. Laude, and J. P. Moore. Fred responded with feeling, reviewing the history of the undertaking and thanking those who helped him to make it successful.

Bob Elgin, falconer of Carlisle, Iowa, by means of colored film and two of his trained falcons, presented the history and art of hunting with falcons.

Business Meetings of the Society

As usual the society conducted its business at two meetings, the first at 3:30 P.M. May 6, 1961, and the second followed the noon luncheon May 7, 1961.

Peter C. Petersen, Jr., President, called the meeting to order. By motion the reading of the minutes of the May, 1960, meeting was dispensed. The secretary-treasurer presented the financial report for the year from May, 1960, to May, 1961. Receipts for the year (including the money on hand May 13, -1960) were \$2613.10. Expenses totaled \$1480.41, leaving a balance of \$1132.69, May 6, 1961. Total number of members on this date was 338; of these 4 are contributing members, 18 supporting members, 12 junior members, 31 new members. 106 members have not paid the 1961 dues.

The Executive Council at the noon meeting decided that the subscription price to libraries, museum and other societies be \$3.00 per year.

Mrs. Florence Spring, representing the Cedar Falls Audubon Society, invited the I.O.U. to Cedar Falls, for the 1962 convention, to be held on May 12 and 13. The Executive Council had agreed on this place and time, acting on the invitation given by the president, Miss Hilton, in May, 1960. The invitation was accepted. The president announced that the 1961 Fall Meeting will be held September 16 and 17 at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, near Titonka. Hotel and motel accommodations may be obtained at Algona. The Inland Bird Banding Association will meet in conjunction with the I.O.U. meeting. The Sioux City Bird Club, celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 1963 invited the I.O.U. to be their guests at Sioux City for the 1963 Convention. A tentative invitation for a joint meeting of the Illinois Audubon Society and the I.O.U. was extended by the Tri-City Bird Club for 1964.

The Society voted to honor William Youngworth, who has contributed many articles to *Iowa Bird Life* and generously given financial aid, with honorary membership.

Article I, Section 7, of the Constitution was amended as follows: Any person whose dues at the close of the annual meeting are past due shall automatically be dropped from membership.

The president reported the discussion by the Executive Council of means considered to encourage members to report their observation to *Iowa Bird Life*. To foster interest among the Junior members, a page of *Iowa Bird Life* is to be reserved for reports of these observations. Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Ottumwa, was appointed to supervise and edit the contributions. Further, in order to encourage observation and research, a research problems committee was appointed by the president, viz., Dean Roosa, Lehigh; Dr. Milton Weller, Ames; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Woodward Brown, Des Moines; Dr. Floyd von Ohlen, Fairfield; and Dr. Martin L. Grant, Cedar Falls. One of the duties of the committee is to suggest a list of problems within the abilities of lay members of our organization who are interested in more than bird listing.

Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Librarian, unable to attend the convention sent the following report:

First, the publicity in a recent issue of *The Audubon Magazine* enabled the sale of several copies of our reprinted check-list; second, the last complete set of *Iowa Bird Life* was sold to the Library of Congress recently, although payment has not yet been received. (This does not refer to the bound set which is the permanent file owned by our organization); third, now that the loose file of individual issues has so many gaps, it is suggested that the remaining issues be opened for sale to members of the Union. (Action on this recommendation was tabled by the Executive Council)

The president appointed the following committees:

Nominating: John Paul Moore, Mrs. Harold R. Peasley, and Mrs. Helen Barrett.

Resolutions: Dr. Martin L. Grant, Margaret Nagle, and Elton Fawks.

Auditing: The Executive Council.

Adjournment.

The concluding business meeting of the I.O.U. convened Sunday afternoon following the fine luncheon served at the Izaak Walton League Club House.

The chairman of the nominating committee, John Paul Moore, reported the following nominations: President, Forrest Millikin, Sigourney; Vice-president, Dean Roosa, Lehigh; Secretary-treasurer, Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Waterloo; Executive Council, Seddie Cogswell, Mount Vernon, Mrs. Myrle L. Jones, Estherville, Dr. Peter P. Laude, Iowa City; Robert Nickolson, Sioux City; Editor, Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport; Librarian, Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Mount Vernon. Moved by John Osness that nominations cease and secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Seconded by Margaret Nagle. Motion carried.

Forrest G. Millikin, chairman of the auditing committee, reported the treasurers' books were in good order. Moved by Charles C. Ayres, Jr., that report of the auditing committee be accepted. Seconded by Pearl Rader. M.C.

Dr. Martin L. Grant, chairman of the Resolutions Committee read the following resolutions: Be it resolved that the Iowa Ornithologists Union members express their deepest thanks to:

1. The officers of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and the members of the Executive Committee for their excellent efforts in supervising the activi-

ties of the Union during the past year; Peter C. Petersen, Jr., President, and acting editor of the current issue of *Iowa Bird Life*; Dean Roosa, Vice-president; Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Secretary-treasurer, and Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Librarian. With reference to the two new officers, it is a pleasure to note the results of the entrance of young, untired blood into the administration of the Union, a precedent which the Federal Government has deemed important enough to follow.

2. To Fred J. Pierce, the officer of longest continuous term of office, of greatest service and most enduring contribution, it is no disparagement of the work of other officers to note that long after the service of the rest of us is forgotten, the monument left by Editor Pierce, the magazine, *Iowa Bird Life*, will remain an imperishable memory.

3. To Dean Roosa and the rest of the program committee for arranging such satisfactory sessions at the annual meeting.

4. To the following people who took part in the excellent program:

a. Roy Schultz, Castalia, for his fine film of Alaska.

b. Mayor Oscar M. Stoltz for his excellent welcome, welcoming bird watchers.

c. Dale Hein for his interesting paper on local movements of Wood Ducks.

d. Dr. Arnold O. Haugen for his informative talk on the Wildlife Research Program.

e. Bob Elgin and his "falcon" guests for a most enjoyable feature program.

f. Fred Pierce, and his wife, for his book display, an important feature of our annual meeting.

g. Elton Fawks for his review of the 1960-61 Bald Eagle Survey of the Mississippi Valley.

4. To the following people and organizations for the important contributions that made the Thirteenth Annual Convention such an outstanding occasion.

a. The Ottumwa Bird Club for the time and effort expended and for all the courtesies that made this convention a memorable one.

b. Charles C. Ayres, Chairman of the Arrangements Committee and the members of said committee who so adequately handled the many important tasks incident to the functioning of this fine convention.

c. The Ottumwa police force for the courtesy of providing unlimited parking time.

d. The numerous business organizations and generous towns people who made generous financial contributions, namely, South Ottumwa Savings Bank, Union Bank and Trust Company, Fidelity Savings Bank, South Side Drug Store, Pedrick and Thorne Hardware, American Cleaners and Shoe Repair, Earl May Seed Store, Baird Radio and Television, Ottumwa Courier, Hallberg Super-Valu Grocery, John Deere Ottumwa Works, B.P.O.E. Lodge 347, Fraternal Order of Eagles (Ottumwa Eerie 114), Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club, Dr. Prewitt, Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Blome, Dr. Vineyard and Earl and V. Kirk of Agency, Iowa.

e. The S.S. Kresge Company and the J.C. Penny Company for the donation of door prizes.

f. To the Swenson Bakery and the Lowenberg Bakery for donations of sweet rolls and doughnuts and the Wapello Dairy for milk for the coffee hour.

g. To the Morrell Company for the folder of attractive bird pictures.

h. To Ed, the Florist for use of the beautiful floral displays at the dinner.

i. To the Ottumwa Hotel for opening the Coffee Shop for early morning breakfast and for the lovely souvenir portfolios.

j. To the Izaak Walton League Ottumwa and Cottonwood Chapters, for the use of the Club House and the excellent dinner served.

Martin L. Grant, Chr., Margaret Nagle, Elton Fawks.

Moved by Helen Hawkins, seconded by Pearl Rader that the resolutions of the above committee be accepted. Motion carried.

Moved by John Paul Moore that the Pierce Book Display become a permanent part of the annual meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Hallberg. Unanimously carried.

Compilation of birds observed.

Moved by Dr. Peter P. Laude that convention adjourn. Seconded by Homer Rinehart. Adjournment.

Attendance Register—AMES: John H. Hart, Dr. Arnold O. Haugen, Dale Hein, Dr. Milton W. Weller. ARNOLD'S PARK: Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Bennett. BLOOMFIELD: Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Miller. CEDAR FALLS: Madelaine D. Carpenter, Frances Crouter, Eleanor Eifert, Annette Haffner, Dr. Martin L. Grant, Mrs. Oren Paine, Mrs. Charles Swanke, Maxine Schwanke, Mrs. Florence Spring. IOWA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE: Eugene Brady, Bob Faaborg, Kathy Fry, Sara Hixson, Dean Hoganson, John E. Maeding, Jeannine Martin, Dick Maze, Mary Lou Petersen, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Rinehart, Bob Rogers, David Rose, Tom Spaid, Bob Stessman, Robert Young. CEDAR RAPIDS: Eleanore Fullerton, Lillian Serbousek, Myra G. Willis, Pauline Wershofen. DAVENPORT: Peter C. Petersen, Jr. DES MOINES: Woodward H. Brown, Dr. Robert E. G. Norton, Dr. and Mrs. Harold R. Peasley. ESTHERVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Myrle L. Jones. FAIRFIELD: Mrs. Viola Hayward, Margaret Herdliska, Dr. and Mrs. Floyd von Ohlen. FREMONT: Maude Norris. GILMORE CITY: Mr. and Mrs. Sewall Van Alstine. HUMBOLDT: Charles G. Cran. IOWA CITY: Dr. and Mrs. Peter P. Laude. KEOKUK: George Kepper, Mike Krebill, John Morris, Alois J. Weber. LA PORTE CITY: Dennis Hanson. LEHIGH: Dean M. Roosa. LISCOMB: Mrs. Carl Proescholdt, Terry Proescholdt. MARSHALLTOWN: Dorothy A. Brunner, Mr. and Mrs. Russel J. Prescott, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart. MT. PLEASANT: George E. Crane. NEWTON: Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Moore, Ronnie Talbot. OELWEIN: Mr. and Mrs. Earl Alton. OSKALOOSA: Mr. and Mrs. Keith D. Layton. OTTUMWA: Mrs. and Mrs. Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Mrs. James Burns, Mike Burns, Mrs. Iris Calhoun, Barbara Greeve, Lorraine Gilroy, Gwen Hall, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Hallberg, Beth Moore, Charles Moore, Dixon Moore, Jean Powell, I. M. Snook, Lulu Snook, Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Stempel, Mrs. Orville Upp, Pearle C. Walker, Gay Wymore, Madelaine Wymore. RIPPEY: Ann Moore. SIGOURNEY: Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Millikin. SIOUX CITY: Mrs. Helen Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Davison, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell M. Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Nickolson. TITONKA: Harold H. Burgess. VINTON: Paul D. Kline. WATERLOO: Mrs. R. E. Boller, Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Dorothy M. Drackley, Helen Hawkins, Russell M. Hays, Mabelle Hinkley, Margaret Nagel, Mr. and Mrs. John Osness, Nick Osness, Pearl Rader, Brooks Shafer. WHEATLAND: C. Esther Copp. WINTHROP: Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Pierce. ILLINOIS: ALEDO Robert Trail. EAST MOLINE: Elton Fawks. JOY: Ted Greer. NEBRASKA, LINCOLN: Mr. and Mrs. Harold V. Whitmus. Total registered—129.

Composite List of Birds Seen on the Field Trip, May 7, 1961—Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Common Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Herring Gull, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow throat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Additional birds seen Saturday, May 6, 1961: American Bittern, Common Snipe, Upland Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Northern Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Caspian Tern, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue Grosbeak, (no details, ed.) Savannah Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco.

FALL MEETING

The Fall Meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists Union and the Annual Meeting of the Inland Bird Banding Association will be held jointly at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge and Algona, Iowa, on Sept. 16 and 17, 1961.

Papers on bird banding will be presented in Algona on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 16, 1961. Any bander wishing to present a paper please notify the editor stating the title, length, and visual aids to be used by August 15. Members of the I.O.U. are welcome to attend the paper session on banding.

Saturday evening the Iowa Ornithologists Union will present a program of films by members. Banders are welcome to attend this program. Sunday morning a field trip to Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge will be led by Manager Harold Burgess. Migrating ducks and small land birds should be in evidence and the Wood Duck banding operation will be shown. At noon a picnic lunch will be held at the refuge.

Any authorized bander wishing to band on the refuge on Saturday or Sunday will have to obtain a special permit and assignment from Mr. Harold Burgess, Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Titonka, Iowa. Full details of the meeting will be mailed in late August.

A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MILLIKIN

Dear Members:

My nomination and election as your president for the ensuing year came as a complete surprise. Many thanks for the honor. The officers you have elected to work with me are of the highest order and I am sure we will all do our best to merit your confidence. We would like to have any suggestions you may have to offer. Your Vice President, Dean Roosa, is program chairman and suggestions along that line should be sent to him.

Fall Meeting. We have accepted the invitation of Harold Burgess to meet at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge. September 16 and 17 have been selected as tentative dates. The meeting will be held jointly with the Inland Bird Banding Association. Peter Petersen Jr., who is an officer of both the I.O.U. and I.B.B.A. has consented to act as liaison between the two groups. Details of this meeting appears elsewhere in this issue.



FORREST G. MILLIKIN

Spring Meeting. This will be held at Cedar Falls, May 12 and 13, 1962. The territory around Cedar Falls and Waterloo provides the best for bird observation. I am sure Dean Roosa and his committee will plan a good program for you.

Membership. New faces at our annual meetings and new names on our membership roster are heartening. It is especially encouraging to notice the increase in young people who are becoming interested. Won't each of you try to get a new member.

Iowa Bird Life. Our thanks go to Fred Pierce for his many years of good and faithful service. Our congratulations go to Peter Petersen Jr., who has accepted the editorship. I have known Pete for a number of years and have always "just plain liked the lad". His youthful enthusiasm and interest are to be commended. You can help him by submitting your notes and articles.

Let us all get behind the I.O.U. and **Iowa Bird Life**. It is our organization and our magazine. We can make them what we will.

Sincerely,

Forrest G. Millikin

SOME WINTER RAPTORES IN THE SIOUX CITY AREA

WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH

3119 East Second Street
SIOUX CITY, IOWA

While making our Red Crossbill survey during the winter of 1960-1961 the writer often had disappointing days in lack of crossbill records, but they were always compensated by finding large numbers of fine raptors. This winter in particular has been conducive to wintering of many species of hawks and owls. The ground in our area has been bare or nearly so all winter. The temperature has not been bitter in the prolonged sense and this must have led to the presence of plenty of animal life above ground for food. In any event we saw more hawks and more species of hawks than we have for years.

Goshawk. The Goshawk was seen on four occasions January and February, 1961, but since three records were in South Dakota we will give only the Iowa record. On January 7 a large Goshawk was flushed twice in Grace Hill Cemetery, Hawarden.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. This small hawk was seen once when on December, 26, 1960, we flushed one from under the bridge across the Little Sioux River at Rodney, Monona County. A flock of domestic pigeons usually flushes from under this bridge and was no doubt the source of food for this vicious little hawk.

Red-tailed Hawk. From November 8, 1960 to February 11, 1961, we logged this large hawk on fourteen different days. Sometimes only one or two a day, but more often six or eight. The largest number counted was on December 26, when we saw fifteen. Most of these were seen in the timbered area along the Little Sioux River in Monona County. One fine Harlan's Hawk was seen near Ticonic.

Rough-legged Hawk. This fine hawk is of course the bread and butter hawk of all our winter field trips. We can always expect to find them, however probable not in the numbers that we have this year. The first ones seen was November 16, 1960, when we counted six. One January 9, 1961, we counted seventeen live birds and checked two dead ones, which had probably been struck by automobiles. On February 4, while on a trip up through Plymouth, Sioux and Osceola Counties, we counted eighteen Rough-legs. Beautiful melanistic phase specimens of this hawk are seen from time to time. Two such individuals were seen in the Cherokee area on December 10, 1960. The total number seen in this area up to February 11, 1961, has been eighty five including the dead ones.

Golden Eagle. See report in *Iowa Bird Life* 1961 Vol. XXXI p. 19.

Marsh Hawk. The graceful Marsh Hawk is a regular winter resident of northwest Iowa. We listed it on eleven days the past winter. On a trip through O'Brien, Buena Vista, Cherokee and Ida Counties, on December 30, 1960, the writer counted ten Marsh Hawks. An interesting sidelight on wintering Marsh Hawks is to notice if pairs are feeding together. On at least three occasions during the past winter Mrs. Youngworth and the writer saw a pair of Marsh Hawks coursing over the winter landscape together.

Prairie Falcon. It is always a delight to see this dashing western falcon in Iowa. We had this privilege on December 30, 1960, when we saw one perch on a power pole near Pierson, Woodbury County. We stopped the car and watched the falcon at our leisure and then saw it depart with a sudden burst of speed.

Pigeon Hawk. This small falcon is not the common winter resident in this area that the Sparrow Hawk is, but this writer does have at least twenty

six records for this hawk in northwest Iowa in the thirty six years that records have been kept on wintering hawks. It was therefore with some pleasure that we recorded one on January 9, 1961, near Moville, Woodbury County.

Sparrow Hawk. This falcon was recorded on eleven days during the present winter. Usually only one or two were seen, but on some days several were recorded. Such a day was January 9, 1961, which was a fine hawk day, when we counted seven Sparrow Hawks on a trip to Storm Lake and return.

Great Horned Owl. This large owl was flushed four times during the crossbill survey. The first one near Hornick, Woodbury County. Then on December 30, 1960, the writer flushed one from the Aurelia Cemetery, Cherokee County, and a little later in the day one from the Diamond Cemetery south of Aurelia. A fourth owl was disturbed in the Storm Lake Cemetery, Buena Vista County.

Snowy Owl. Only one owl of this species was seen during the present winter. While on a field trip near Paullina, O'Brien County, the writer flushed a Snowy Owl and was surprised to notice how yellowish-brown the back appeared in this particular specimen.

Short-eared Owl. During the present winter several people have reported Barn Owls flying about the farmlands in the daytime. I think they probably were seeing Short-eared Owls hunting during the day. On February 4, 1961, we saw three Short-eared Owls hunting near Sibley, Osceola County and a fourth south of Sheldon in Sioux County.

OBITUARIES

WIER R. MILLS

With the death of Wier Robson Mills last November, the Sioux City Bird Club lost a distinguished Honorary Member. The date of his joining the Club is not known, but he was most active in the 1920's, according to the programs of that decade, and served as Vice-President during the year 1928-1929. The printing of programs was discontinued during the depression years, and minutes of meetings during that period are not available, so how much longer he continued to participate in Club activities can only be surmised. At any rate, his services to the Club over the years were so much appreciated that he was made an Honorary Member when he could no longer take an active part.

To quote the article in the Des Moines Register at the time of his death, "While he had no degrees, Wier Mills was a well-educated man. He was an acknowledged expert in the fields of ornithology, botany, geology, English and Scottish history, and in music and the arts. By occupation he was a grocer and storekeeper, operating one of the pioneer businesses of Pierson . . . He was a charter member of the Pierson Methodist Church, being the last surviving charter member, and had belonged sixty-nine years at the time of his death. He served his church as organist for sixty-seven of those years—playing an instrument he himself had donated . . . On June 23, 1960, he received his 50 year certificate and pin from Rutland Lodge No. 607, A.F. & A.M., Pierson, Iowa . . . In former years, Mr. Mills was a member of several scholarly groups, including the American Guild of Organists, Western Iowa Chapter; the Botanical Society of America; the Entomological Society of America; the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the American Ornithologists' Union; the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and the Sioux City Bird Club."

Few of us are privileged to serve our fellow men in as many ways as Wier Mills did - leading them to a richer appreciation of the beauties of

the out-door world, as well as the beauty of the spiritual world, reached through religion and music. Mrs. W. W. Barrett, 2103 S. Cecelia, Sioux City, Iowa.

Dr. GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON

It is with deep regret that we note the passing March 19, 1961, of Dr. George Oscar Hendrickson of Ames. Dr. Hendrickson was a member of the Iowa Ornithologists Union for thirty years and served as president from 1933-1936. Over the years he contributed thirty-five notes and articles to *Iowa Bird Life* and acted as co-author to nineteen more articles.

Dr. Hendrickson was born in Earlville in 1890. He attended public schools at Buffalo Center and received his B.A., and M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the State University of Iowa. Before accepting an instructor's position at Iowa State University in 1925 he served as superintendent of schools in Janesville, Greeley and Thornburg and was an instructor at Iowa State Teachers and Cornell Colleges. He was appointed professor in 1951 and had been in semi-retirement since July 1960. Since its beginning in 1935 Dr. Hendrickson had served as assistant leader of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Iowa State University.

In February he was honored by the Wildlife Cooperative Unit in Washington. The Izaak Walton League of Iowa awarded him its conservation award for 1960. He has been honored by Sigma Xi, Kappa Phi, and Gamma Sigma Delta honor Societies. He served on the Professional Standard Committee of the Wilderness Society in 1945, 1947, and 1953. In addition to his frequent contributions to *Iowa Bird Life* he was author of over 200 papers and notes, many on the Eastern Cottontail Rabbit.

It was my good fortune to study under Dr. Hendrickson at Iowa State University. He was always willing and helpful in any extra projects of his students. In class he was happy to take as much time as necessary to explain a principle to everyone and answer all questions carefully.

He is survived by his wife, five daughters, one son, two brothers, four sisters, twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild. (PCP.)

GENERAL NOTES

Cattle Egret and other uncommon Iowa water-birds. —Incidental to field work on marsh ecology, several species of uncommon Iowa birds were observed during 1958-1961.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). Three birds in immature plumage were observed at Trumbull Lake in Clay County on June 23, 24, 26, and July 7, 1958. Two were present on July 30 and three were again seen on August 19 of that year. King (*Ia. Acad. Sci.*, 51:467-470, 1944) observed two loons on West Okoboji Lake in 1942. Presumably these were immature birds summering south of the present breeding area.

Cattle Egret (*Bulbucus ibis*). A single bird was observed and collected at Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County on April 21, 1961. The bird was an adult male in breeding condition. It was feeding in a burned-over River Bulrush area. All identifying characters were conspicuous: the delicate tan crown and nape, back, and ruff of the lower neck; the yellow bill and yellowish legs; and the conspicuous throat pouch. This is a short stocky bird compared to the Snowy Egret and quite easily identified even at long range. This appears to be the first record for the state. The amazing spread of this bird since its entry into the United States in 1952 has been documented by Sprunt (*Ann. Rept. Smithsonian Inst. for 1954*: 259-276, 1955).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*). A lone bird was observed on May 16, 1958, feeding in a shallow pool at the south end of Little Wall Lake. There

was an extensive white area at the base of the bill but precise identification was impossible. However, there are no authentic records for the Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*) in Iowa. Because records of ibises in Iowa have increased during the last ten years, some should be collected during the spring for identification.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*). A female with a brood of six to eight downy young was seen on Goose Lake near Jewell, Iowa on June 26, 1960.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*). A female or immature male was observed at Little Wall Lake on May 16, 1958 with a group of Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). The bird was observed again on May 17 by Peter Petersen Jr. DuMont (*Univ. Ia. Studies*, 15:42, 1934) lists this species as a "rare late fall straggler" as only two of nine specimens he noted were observed in the spring. However, these records may reflect the fall shooting season when most duck specimens are taken.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). Two or three were observed on June 24, 1954 on Trumbull Lake. Five were observed on July 7, 1958 and another was seen on July 29, 1958 in the same area. These birds all appeared to be immature. Whether these were young of the year or summering yearlings was not ascertained. Several nests have been reported in Iowa recently (*Iowa Conservationist*, 15:52, 1956, and *Iowa Bird Life*, 29:7-9, 1959).

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*). Two were observed on July 14, 1960 at the state-owned Sweetwater Marsh near Tripoli. Although this species is not rare during spring and fall migration, midsummer records are unusual.—MILTON W. WELLER, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

Observation of Marbled Godwit: On April 17, it was reported that a Marbled Godwit was on a pond at the John Gifford farm one mile south of Liscomb, Iowa. During the following two days it was seen at the Wolfe Brothers farm pond one mile North of Marshalltown on the center Street Road as well as at the Gifford Pond. On these days a number of central Iowa ornithologists observed and checked identification of this lone godwit. Among these people were Mrs. L. R. Grimes, Miss Dorothy Bruner, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Rinehart of Marshalltown, Mrs. C. Proescholdt of Liscomb, and Mr. and Mrs. Karl V. Rinehart of Cedar Falls.

This pond, in a grassy meadow, lies only a few feet from the road. The birds can be easily observed from a car. There have been a large variety of ducks and shorebirds on the pond. Many other uncommon birds for this area have been seen on these ponds. Among these are Semipalmated Plover, Willet, Dowitcher, Hudsonian Godwit, Wilson Phalarope, Yellow-headed Blackbird.—KARL RINEHART 79 Sunset Village Cedar Falls, Iowa



MARBLED GODWIT
Photo by the Author

Snowy Owl near Liscomb. When a friend called saying a Snowy Owl had for three days been frequenting a field south of Marshalltown, we set out the next day, January 14, 1961, hoping for a chance to see it. A reconnaissance by car produced nothing, so we tramped across the fields stalking numerous patches of white. Upon closer inspection, however, these became paper scraps or stubborn spots of snow. Despairing of finding the owl, we were returning to the car when we spotted the bird on a telephone pole along busy Highway 30, seemingly oblivious to the rush of traffic.

Almost completely white with only slight barring on its breast, the huge bird was assumed to be an adult male. Indifferently, it seemed to us, he watched our approach, which we made no attempt to hide, turning his big round head from side to side with the great yellow eyes staring.

We had known that Snowy Owls are often quite unafraid of man, but, even so, we were amazed and delighted to approach to within 25 feet of him before putting him to flight.

As we drew unbelievably close to the great owl he spread his broad white wings and with long slow flaps, and only a few feet above the ground, flew across the field and out of sight, transporting us for a moment to the arctic tundra. BETH PROESCHOLDT, Liscomb, Iowa.

Black-Throated Blue Warbler At Davenport. In the late afternoon of September 29, 1960 I heard a slight thud against our kitchen window, and found below it a beautiful male Black-throated Blue Warbler. The bird was sitting upright as though on a nest with his feet tucked under him and his eyes open, but so stunned he was unable to move. I picked him up and after a few minutes in my warm hand he came out of shock and fluttered weakly. I called Pete Petersen Jr., and he came over and banded him. By 11:30 P.M. he had recovered completely and did not seem frightened while I photographed him. Early the next morning we released him and were happy to see him fly swiftly to the tree tops. We hoped he would make his long journey south successfully and return in the spring. MRS. CLARENCE JOHNSON, 1725 Farnam St., Davenport, Iowa.



BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

Photo by the author, reproduced from color slides by Fred Kent

GENERAL NOTES REPORTS

The response to the request for general notes material was quite disappointing. In the future we will attempt to list records by area with more active birders reporting for their region much like **Audubon Field Notes**. The following reports were all which were received since March:

Davenport Area—

During the late winter the Bald Eagle concentration built up to a maximum of 206 in the Sabula-Bellvue area on Feb. 20, 1961, seen from the air by Herbert Troester of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Elton Fawks and Peter Petersen Jr., saw an Osprey along the Mississippi at the Savanna Ordinance Depot on Feb. 19, 1961. Flocks of Red Crossbills were seen in late March in the Tri-Cities and approximately twenty-five were seen on April 24, 1961, at Eagle Point Park, Clinton, by Demett Smith and the writer.

The shorebird migration was disappointing due primarily to lack of water in usual wet areas. Warblers moved through rapidly, but Cape May was seen twice by the writer, May 13 and May 19, 1961. Peter Petersen, Jr. Des Moines Area:

The three months ending April was the fourth coldest to be recorded, and while it had only average precipitation, the moisture was spread evenly throughout the month making it appear unusually wet.

Weather conditions greatly reduced the amount of field work and this may partially account for the almost complete lack of reports of a number of the less common species such as the grebes (other than the Pied-billed) and Red-breasted Merganser.

There was one sighting on Feb. 5th of Lapland Longspurs at the local airport. Marsh Hawks were seen at intervals throughout the winter which is unusual. Considering the reported scarcity of Redheads and Canvasbacks it was gratifying to find a small flock of the former on March 11th on Gray's Lake, and a pair of Canvasbacks in Waterworks Park. A week later there were a few more Redheads on Gray's Lake and about 35 in Waterworks.

There was a minor invasion of Short-eared Owls, these being seen on a number of occasions at the airport and along side roads slightly south and west of there. —Woodward Brown.

Ocheyedon Area:

Five Whimbrels were recorded near Ocheyedon by Paul Lago, a junior member, on April 22, 1961. The birds were carefully observed and checked with field guides. —Paul Lago.

Wheatland Area:

On April 16 1961, a Barn Owl was seen in Pinehill Cemetery, Wheatland, Iowa. A Mockingbird was seen on April 14 and 16, and on April 30 a Yellow-crowned Night Heron was observed. —C. Esther Copp.

BOOK REVIEWS

A Field List of Birds of the Tri-City Region by Peter Petersen Jr., and Elton Fawks. A migration chart of the bird life of the east-central section of Iowa and the north-west section of Illinois. Abundance is indicated by the thickness of the lines and seasons of occurrence are noted by the position of the lines on the calendar chart. Habitat normally associated with each specie is denoted.

The booklet also contains brief notes on the thirty-one major birding localities, some more detailed references, and a map of the region locating the localities. Many large population centers throughout the country have similar works to supplement the field guides.

This work was published by the Tri-City Bird Club and all profits from its sale go to the publication fund of the club. Copies may be obtained at fifty cents each from the Davenport Public Museum, Davenport, Iowa. ed.

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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publications of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; "The Bulletin," 1929-1930; "Iowa Bird Life," beginning 1931.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$3.00 a year. Single copies 75¢ each. Subscription to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are four classes, as follows: Contributing Member, \$10.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$5.00 a year; Regular Member, \$3.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$1.00 a year.

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE DAVENPORT, IOWA

Entered as second-class matter February 9, 1932, at the post office at Winthrop, Iowa, under the act of March 3, 1879, re-entered at the post office at Davenport, Iowa, on March 6, 1961.